

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
SENATE SPEECHES AND INSERTS
July 24, 2014

LEGAL SERVICE CORPORATION'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, July 25, 2014, marks the 40th anniversary of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). With bipartisan support, including that of President Nixon, LSC was established in 1974 as a private, nonprofit corporation, funded by Congress, with the mission to ensure equal access to justice under law for all Americans by providing civil legal assistance to those who otherwise would be unable to afford it. LSC distributes nearly 94 percent of its annual Federal appropriations to 134 local legal aid programs and has nearly 800 offices that serve each of the 435 congressional districts and the U.S. territories.

LSC-funded legal aid programs make a crucial difference to millions of Americans by assisting with the most basic civil legal needs, such as helping women get protection from abuse, mothers to obtain child support, families from unlawful evictions or foreclosures that could leave them homeless, veterans seeking benefits duly earned, defending seniors against consumer scams, and individuals who have lost their jobs and need help in applying for unemployment compensation and other benefits. In my home State, more than 25 percent of the population is eligible for LSC-funded legal services. The three programs funded by LSC served nearly 40,000 Louisianians and closed nearly 16,000 cases last year.

On this 40th anniversary, I congratulate and commend the Legal Services Corporation for the vital work they do every day on behalf of Americans who need qualified counsel. With the growing number of Americans eligible for services and increased demand for legal services, the need for legal aid attorneys has never been greater. Every day that a legal aid attorney protects the safety, security, and health of our most vulnerable citizens, they bring this Nation closer to living up to its commitment to equal justice for all.